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MAY 18 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

May 13, 1993

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Donna Searcy
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Re: PR Docket 92-235

Dear Ms. Searcy:

I am opposed to PR Docket 92-235. Harvey County Kansas has a population of approximately 37,000 people in its six cities, and rural residences. Over the past 20 years officials of Harvey County's emergency services agencies have worked together to develop a county-wide radio communications system. This has resulted in common radio communications between police, fire, ambulance, and other emergency services in 10 different communities and surrounding areas. This system is coordinated by a county-wide central 911 dispatch system. This system proved its immeasurable value in March of 1990, when an F-5 tornado cut a path of destruction and death through our area. The common communications system saved lives, and reduced human suffering and property damage by providing excellent coordination of services without duplication.

The proposed changes sited in PR Docket 92-235 would destroy this system by rendering all of our present radio equipment obsolete. This, in turn, would cause a great safety and financial hardship on the public. It has been estimated that it would cost in excess of one half million dollars to replace our current radio equipment. Small mid-western cities, such as ours, are faced with higher costs and shrinking revenues; much of which is caused by federally mandated laws. These laws are frequently passed down to the "grass-roots" level without financial help. Without some financial assistance, we cannot afford changes like what is being proposed in PR Docket 92-235.

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Donna Searcy

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I have been in the EMS profession for 27 years and I can understand radio congestion problems. However, I question if those of us in the rural areas of the United States should be made to suffer for problems that are occurring in major cities on the East and West coast.

I ask that you reconsider PR Docket 92-235 in light of the many areas of the U.S. that are not faced with a critical problem of radio congestion. If PR Docket 92-235 is passed,

~~I would ask that Federal financial assistance be provided to~~